



November 2004

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Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published the November edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of October and inform you of upcoming November events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

November 2nd: The Importance of Election Day

Each year we face enormous decisions as a nation and a people. Whether we are asked to provide funds for a school district, choose a Member of Congress, or elect a President, we are given an awesome responsibility. This year, Ohioans have once again accepted a strong role in the national spotlight. Ohio has seen more sons assume the presidency than any other state in our nation's history. As our great state has only twice not been on the winning side of Presidential politics, our role has been long established.



After passage of the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1971, our nation has encouraged all eligible citizens at least eighteen years of age to cast a ballot in our elections. All Americans serve our Republic through participation on Election Day. In addition, America is continuing to spread democracy and free elections worldwide with the hope that citizens of all nations can enjoy the same rights as Americans.

In October, the nation of Afghanistan held the first presidential elec-

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tion in their history. America's friend and ally, Hamid Karzai, is now the first elected President to serve the Afghan people in the thousands of years of Afghanistan's existence. In January, the people of Iraq will finally see free and honest elections in their great nation. Democracy is spreading, democracy is working, and America stands as the example of success.

On November 2nd, I encourage you to fulfill one of your most valuable duties and vote on Election Day. Only by exercising your leadership as an informed voter can we continue to expect greatness from our Republic.

House Passes Gillmor Cosponsored Bill to End Computer Spyware

In October, the United States House of Representatives passed the Safeguard Against Privacy Invasions Act which I was proud to cosponsor. This act regulates the creation of spyware computer programs known to retrieve and distribute sensitive information about a user and potentially damage their computer.

The Safeguard Against Privacy Invasions Act passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 399 to 1. This legislation requires software companies to obtain the permission of the computer user prior to installing spyware programs capable of obtaining sensitive information and relaying that information to a third party.



The passage of this important legislation will protect consumers against programs which can collect your personal information such as credit card numbers and record every keystroke without your knowledge. While you may not know that spyware has been installed, you may notice your computer is performing sluggishly or changing settings without your permission. This legislation imposes a fine of up to \$33,000 for each computer on which spyware has been installed and is an important step forward in protecting every computer user.

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which held hearings and reviewed the spyware legislation, recently found more than 60 varieties of spyware installed on the committee's computers. The spyware had been installed without the permission of the computer users.

This bill represents yet another effort by the House to protect personal privacy, as it aims to curb computer programs that spy on users. I look forward to the Senate's examination of the spyware legislation and remain optimistic that a consensus measure will be produced so that it can be sent to the President for his signature.

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Gillmor Receives Numerous Awards

In the past month, Congressman Paul E. Gillmor has received awards for his work in the 108th Congress. In 2004, Congressman Gillmor has received the following awards for his service:

- Thomas Jefferson Award from the Food Marketing Institute and International Foodservice Distributors Association
- Hero of the Taxpayer Award from Americans for Tax Reform
- Friend of the Shareholder Award from the American Shareholders Association
- Benjamin Franklin Award from the 60 Plus Association
- Friend of the Farm Bureau Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation
- Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business
- Guardian of Seniors' Rights Award from the 60 Plus Association
- Spirit of Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Ground Water Protector Award from the National Ground Water Association



Congressman Gillmor receives the Friend of the Farm Bureau Award from Roy Norman (l) and Mike Heffelfinger (r) in his Defiance district office

Congressman Gillmor was honored for his commitment to permanently repeal the death tax and protect the more than half of Americans invested in the stock market, in addition to his work on tort reform, free trade, spending control, and standing up for small businesses.

JOBS Act Signed by President: Gillmor Provisions to Bring Ohio \$150 Million

Last month, the House and Senate passed the Jumpstart Our Business Strength (JOBS) Act, also known as the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The JOBS Act will remove the threat of European Union sanctions that discourage economic growth and job creation at home, provide about \$145 billion in tax relief over the next decade, reduce corporate tax rates for domestic manufacturers and small corporations, and allow some citizens to deduct state sales tax from their federal tax return. In addition to these provisions, the JOBS Act provides many energy incentives crucial to Ohioans.

Provisions which were a main priority of mine during the energy conference committee are also included in the JOBS Act. As the sole

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Congressman Gillmor meets with employees at the Continental Tire Plant in Bryan, Ohio

Ohioan on the energy conference committee, I advocated for the full compensation of Ohio and other states not presently receiving the total benefits of the Highway Trust Fund. The JOBS Act will increase revenue to the Ohio Department of Transportation by more than \$150 million annually through a reformulating of the tax break for the use of ethanol based gas.

I was pleased to see provisions important to Ohio in the JOBS Act Conference Report. Ohio's use of renewable and clean-burning fuel should be applauded. This measure by the House is an extension of the country's thanks to Ohio for the use of clean-burning fuel.

Other notable benefits of the JOBS Act include a 9 percent tax deduction on all domestic manufacturing activity, the extension of section 179 expensing so that small businesses can immediately expense up to \$100,000 of new investments, and tax simplifications for all Americans.

The JOBS Act was signed into law on October 22, 2004 by President George W. Bush.

U.S. News and World Report Names Edison "World's Greatest Inventor"

The October 11th edition of *U.S. News and World Report* recently named Thomas A. Edison, Milan, Ohio's most famous son, "America's Greatest Inventor."

Partial funding for Edison museums in six locations across the United States, including the Edison Birthplace Museum in Milan, Ohio, comes from legislation which I sponsored and introduced in February 1997. The legislation to mint one-dollar silver coins commemorating the light bulb and the many inventions made by Thomas A. Edison throughout his life has made 500,000 coins available for purchase in 2004. Through the U.S. Mint, coins are available for sale until December 31, 2004.



Born in Northwest Ohio, Edison holds 1,093 patents for his many inventions including the light bulb, phonograph, projection system, and improvements to the telegraph and telephone. As one of our most historical figures and certainly an everlasting presence in the world, Thomas A. Edison deserves many tributes. The title of 'America's Greatest Inventor' is very fitting for Milan's favored son. I would encourage any citizen of the

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Fifth District, any resident of Ohio, and any person who believes that persistence breeds greatness to explore the life of Thomas Edison.

As October 21st marked the 125th anniversary of the day Edison's light bulb shined for 13 ½ hours, the *U.S. News and World Report* article is a fitting tribute to one of Ohio's own.



The 2004 Thomas A. Edison Commemorative Silver Dollar is available for purchase from the Edison Birthplace Museum at (419) 499-2135 or through the U.S. Mint (www.usmint.gov).

V.A. Update: Supporting Our Nation's Veterans

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to nominate many strong candidates to our military academies. But my commitment to our sons and daughters serving the Fifth District does not end with their appointment to the academy. As a former officer in the United States Air Force, I have always considered my responsibility to our nation's veterans foremost in my duties. In the past 4 years, Congress has worked to increase funding and improve the lives of our veterans.



Congressman Gillmor meets with soldiers in Fort Benning, Georgia

Even with the difficult budgetary and economic constraints following 9/11, Congress has made historic progress for America's 25 million veterans. Contrary to many misleading reports, appropriations for veterans' health care programs have increased almost 40% since FY2001 and the VA's total budget has increased almost 50% since 2001.

As a result of increased funding and aggressive oversight, 1.2 million more veterans will receive VA medical care services this year. In addition, VA has been able to reduce the number of veterans on long-term waiting lists by more than 98% in just 2 years, from over 300,000 in 2002 to less than 6,000 today.

President Bush has signed into law 17 comprehensive veterans laws which have boosted programs and benefits to all veterans. The GI Bill was boosted 50% in three years and the total lifetime benefit for qualified veterans rose to over \$36,000 to help pay for college or job training programs. These changes have increased the utilization rates by 15% since 2001.

Finally, last year Congress approved legislation which will make eligi-

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ble hundreds of thousands of disabled retirees to begin receiving both VA disability compensation and military retirement pay concurrently. When this program is fully implemented, more than 250,000 disabled military retirees will have received over \$22 billion in additional benefits.

I am proud to be a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and I look forward to working in the future to improve the standard of living for all our nation's veterans.

Congress Continues its Work on the 9/11 Commission Recommendations

Negotiators from the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate are still hard at work this week trying to reconcile the differences between bills passed in both bodies to implement the 9/11 Commission's Recommendations. On October 8, 2004 the House passed strong implementation language and I am hopeful that the Conference Committee negotiators can reach an agreement in the near future enabling the President to sign a strong reform bill into law. The following is a brief summary of the major provisions that are likely to be a part of the final compromise package establishing the roadmap for improving our intelligence capabilities.



Intelligence Reform and Integration

- **Creating a National Intelligence Director (NID)** to serve as the head of the United States Intelligence Community; and acts as the principal advisor to the President, the National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council for foreign and domestic intelligence matters relating to the national security.
- **Establishes a National Intelligence Strengthening Council** to produce national intelligence estimates and evaluate Intelligence Community-wide collection and production of intelligence.

Terrorism Prevention and Prosecution

- **Tracking "Lone Wolf" Terrorists** who act individually and free of any terrorist organization. The law would allow federal officials to monitor independently operating terrorists even if he/she does not have a demonstrable connection to a foreign terrorist organization. An example of a "lone wolf" would be convicted felon Richard Reed who attempted to blow up an American Airlines flight with a bomb in his shoes.
- **Stopping Terrorist Hoaxes** by making it a crime for an individual to intentionally pull a terrorist hoax or fake the death of a U.S. soldier. Such actions siphon off valuable resources, manpower and equipment away from those trying to respond to real threats.
- **Continuing to Crack Down on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing** by strengthening current law to make it harder for

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terrorists to secure financing. These changes would further improve the tools available to law enforcement to investigate and prosecute money laundering.

- **Enhancing Airline Security** by training all federal law enforcement officers with in-flight counterterrorism procedures and allowing qualified federal law enforcement officers to assist with airline security while not on duty.



Border Security/Terrorist Travel

- **Enhancing Border Security** by doubling the current number of border patrol officers and tripling the number of immigration enforcement agents.
- **Improving Security Identification** by making it more difficult for terrorists to falsify identification to gain admission and remain in the country to plan and plot terrorist acts. This provision reduces the black market for identification documents where terrorists like D.C. sniper John Muhammad made a living by providing bogus birth certificates and drivers' licenses.

International Cooperation and Coordination

- **Strengthening Diplomatic Ties** by encouraging the President to use all diplomatic means with coalition partners to agree on an effective approach regarding the detention and treatment of captured terrorists. This provision also encourages Pakistan to continue in its commitment to combat terrorism, modernize its economy, resolve differences with its neighbors, reform its education system and make progress in creating an effective and participatory democracy.
- **Fostering Better Cross-cultural Understanding** by creating a scholarship pilot program to provide opportunities for better cultural understanding and awareness by students of American-sponsored schools located in predominately Muslim countries.
- **Cutting Red Tape for America's Intelligence Agencies** through reform of the designation process of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) so that such FTOs cannot use bureaucratic red tape to their advantage.

Government Restructuring

- **Providing Faster, Smarter Funding for First Responders** by unclogging the funding pipeline—from the federal government to local first responders—to help expedite resources to where they are most needed.
- **Enhancing America's First Responders** by making it easier for first responders (firefighters, policemen and EMTs) to help those in



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need across state lines without fear of being sued.

Focus on the Fifth: Three District Volunteer Fire Departments Receive Over \$179,000 in October Grants

In the past month, three district volunteer fire departments received \$179,487 in grant money from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness.

These funds, made available by Congress, will be used to increase the effectiveness of fire fighting operations, fire fighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, EMS programs, and fire prevention and safety programs. The awards will be used towards training, equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.



The three fire departments receiving awards throughout October include:

Kalida	\$47,561
Risingsun	\$68,288
South Richland	\$63,638

These grant monies will improve the effectiveness of firefighters in each of the three areas and benefit citizens across the Fifth District of Ohio. Firefighters play a critical role ensuring the safety of our communities and these moneys will help to deliver the resources necessary to excel in their mission.

Contact Me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, DC or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner.